

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 1

THE BALTIMORE SUN
22 December 1981

Reagan faults disarmament drive

Washington (AP)—President Reagan says the disarmament demonstrations that sent hundreds of thousands of people marching in the capitals of Western Europe this fall were all sponsored by an organization "bought and paid for by the Soviet Union."

President Reagan's statement, in an interview to be broadcast later this week, brought an angry rebuttal from spokesmen of the American anti-nuclear weapons movement. They said that Soviet-backed groups take part, but that the European peace movement is a broadly based protest against the prospect of a nuclear war being fought on European soil.

President Reagan's comment came in an interview taped last week for the Public Broadcasting Service program, "Ben Wattenberg at Large." The interview is to be aired Friday night. A transcript was made available yesterday to the Associated Press.

The president was asked about the protests, such as that which took place on December 5, when hundreds of thousands marched in Denmark, Switzerland, Italy, West Germany and Romania against U.S. and Soviet arms policies.

"Oh, those demonstrations," President Reagan said. "You could have used newsreels from the '60s in America. Those are all sponsored by a thing called the World Peace Council, which is bought and paid for by the Soviet Union."

The World Peace Council was identified in 1980 testimony before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence by John McMahon, a Central Intelligence Agency official, as a Soviet front organization and "a political action tool in support of Soviet foreign policy goals and military strategy." Mr. McMahon said it operated in 130 countries.

U.S. peace group spokesmen did not quarrel with that description, but with President Reagan's assertion that "all" the demonstrations are sponsored by the communist-front organization.

"He's all wet," said John A. Sullivan, associate executive secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker peace group. "He shows a profound ignorance of the peace movement of the 1960s and what American citizens were up to and that seems to me to be

matched by his observations about the peace movement in Europe today."

Mr. Sullivan said the European disarmament movement is supported by many organizations that are "religious and moderate in politics" and added, "They are not about to give away the concern for peace to any bloc."

Dr. Herbert Scoville, formerly a top CIA official and assistant director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, also took issue with President Reagan.

"I believe that President Reagan greatly underestimates the strength and breadth of the anti-nuclear movement in Europe," said Dr. Scoville, now president of the Arms Control Association. "It is not just composed of communist-supported youths."

"Responsible people of all ages throughout Western Europe are extremely worried by the possibility of a nuclear war being fought on their lands. These fears have been accentuated by rash statements by American leaders implying that a European nuclear war would not necessarily extend to the United States."